



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

23 OCTOBER 2017

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Torrance – Sixteen Charged in Southern California Animal Trafficking Sweep

(U) Federal authorities seized dozens of animals and filed charges against 16 people as part of what they say is the largest wildlife trafficking sweep in Southern California. Federal authorities said the sweep—named "Operation Jungle Book"—was an effort to combat a growing illegal market for exotic animals that threatens the survival of species. Among the animals seized are king cobras, turtles, fish, and a Bengal tiger cub that a California man said he bought on the streets of Tijuana, Mexico, for \$300.

SOURCE: 20 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) Florida – FBI Sting Foils Alleged Plot to Bomb Florida Mall

(U) Miami – An alleged plot to blow up a shopping mall in South Florida was foiled by federal agents in an undercover operation which led to the arrest of a man from Miami on 20 October. News media identified the suspect as Vicente Solano, a man who reportedly is a sympathizer with the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). He is believed to have been acting alone in planning a large-scale attack on Dolphin Mall in Doral, near Miami International Airport, and was tipped off to the FBI by a confidential informant who was communicating with Solano about the alleged plot. Solano will have his first appearance in Miami federal court today.

SOURCE: 21 October 2017, [CBS News](#)

#### (U) Virginia – Man Charged with Terrorism after Setting Off Bomb

(U) Williamsburg – Police in Virginia have arrested a man on charges of terrorism and detonating an explosive in Williamsburg near the College of William & Mary. Authorities identified the man as 30-year-old Stephen Powers of Gloucester, Virginia. The device was found on 19 October in a parking lot after firefighters and police were called to the scene for what they thought was a car fire. No injuries were reported and police believe the explosion was an isolated incident.

SOURCE: 21 October 2017, [Washington Post](#)

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### (U) Egypt – Militants Kill Egyptian Security Forces in Desert Shoot-Out

(U) Bahariya – More than 50 Egyptian security personnel have died during a clash with suspected extremist militants. The militants opened fire on the group during a raid on their hideout near the Bahariya oasis in the Western Desert, according to the Egypt's interior ministry. A security source quoted by local news outlets said their convoy came under attack by militants using rocket-propelled grenades and explosive devices, which caused a total of 53 security service fatalities. Fifteen militants also died in the attack. There has been no claim of responsibility by any groups active in the area.

SOURCE: 21 October 2017, [BBC](#)

**(U) Niger – At Least 12 Police Killed as Militants Storm Base**

(U) Ayorou – At least 12 paramilitary police in Niger have been killed in an attack by gunmen using pick-up trucks and motorcycles on their base in the western town of Ayorou, officials say. Security sources say that militants were heavily armed with rocket launchers and machine guns and carried out the assault using four vehicles, each carrying about seven fighters. The identity of the attackers is not yet clear. Officials say they launched their attack on Ayorou—about 25 miles inside Niger—from Mali, close to where militants killed four US soldiers in an ambush earlier this month.

SOURCE: 21 October 2017, [BBC](#)

**(U) Nigeria – Thirteen Killed after Suicide Bombing Attack**

(U) Maiduguri – Authorities in northeastern Nigeria say 13 people have been killed by a man who set off a suicide bombing yesterday. In a second simultaneous attack, two female suicide bombers died and more than a dozen others were wounded. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility, suspicion fell on the extremist group Boko Haram. Militants from the group have long carried out suicide bombings not only in northeastern Nigeria, but also in neighboring Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

SOURCE: 23 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Philippines – Militant Seize in Marawi Comes to an End**

(U) Clark – Philippine troops found about 40 bodies of suspected gunmen after capturing the building where pro-ISIS militants made their final stand in southern Marawi city. Officials said today the seizure of the building and the defeat of the militants would allow the military to declare the end of the Marawi siege, which hundreds of ISIS-associated gunmen launched exactly five months ago.

SOURCE: 23 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

**(U) California—Meth Discovered in Stuffed Toy Dog at Immigration Checkpoint**

(U) Blythe—Border Patrol agents at an immigration checkpoint near Blythe last week found methamphetamine in a plush toy dog after a Border Patrol canine alerted to an odor it was trained to detect, according to a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) press release. Agents referred the driver of a Dodge Charger for a secondary inspection in which they subsequently found two pounds of methamphetamine—spread across five packages—in a toy dog during a search of the vehicle. Three small bags of meth were also found in the passenger's purse. Combined, the drugs were worth almost \$6,000, according to the CBP.

SOURCE: 22 October 2017, [ABC News](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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